Applicant : Robert L. Newell Date: 4/8/05
Serial No. : 10/691,762 Art Unit: 3751
Response to Office Action of October 19, 2004

Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1(currently amended). An improvement in an applicator implement having an applicator for applying a fluid material from a source to a surface, the improvement comprising:

a stem having a first end and a second end, and an outer peripheral surface extending along the stem between the first end and the second end, in a direction along an axis;

an applicator including a first portion secured to the stem adjacent the first end of the stem and a second portion projecting beyond the first end in a direction away from the second end, the first portion of the applicator being spaced inwardly from the outer peripheral surface toward the axis, and the second portion having an outer peripheral boundary;

a transverse area extending across the stem, adjacent the first end of the stem, between the outer peripheral surface and the outer peripheral boundary; and

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a plurality of lumens extending through the stem from the first end to the second end, the lumens extending along the direction of the axis and spaced apart from one another, closely adjacent one another, in an array of closely adjacent lumens placed around the axis, each lumen being spaced from the axis and from the outer peripheral surface to lie between the axis and the outer peripheral surface, each lumen having an inlet adjacent the second end of the stem for receiving fluid material to be conducted from the source through the lumen, an outlet adjacent the first end of the stem for delivering the fluid material received at the inlet, and a transverse cross-sectional area, at least at the outlet, substantially smaller than the transverse area adjacent the first end of the stem, each outlet being located between the outer peripheral boundary of the second portion of the applicator and the outer peripheral surface and juxtaposed with the outer peripheral boundary of the second portion of the applicator, the outlets being separate from one another and placed around the axis in an array of closely adjacent outlets surrounding the second portion of the applicator with closely adjacent separate outlets corresponding to the plurality of lumens in the array of lumens for delivering the fluid material in a plurality of closely adjacent separate streams of relatively small cross-sectional area corresponding to the plurality of closely adjacent separate outlets ~~lumens~~, with the streams arrayed around the second portion of the applicator to surround the second portion of the

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applicator and be directed to lay down the delivered fluid material along the second portion of the applicator in an array of closely adjacent separate streams of relatively small cross-sectional area at the outer peripheral boundary of the second portion of the applicator.

2(original). The improvement of claim 1 wherein the lumens extend generally parallel to the axis.

3(original). The improvement of claim 1 wherein the stem includes a bore extending from the first end toward the second end and spaced inwardly from the array of lumens toward the axis, and the first portion of the applicator is secured in the bore.

4(original). The improvement of claim 3 wherein the bore extends from the first end of the stem to the second end.

5(original). The improvement of claim 3 wherein at least some of the lumens are spaced outwardly from the bore so as to be separated from the bore.

6(currently amended). The improvement of claim 5 wherein the outlet of each of at least some of the lumens is located closely

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adjacent to and ~~the outer peripheral boundary,~~ spaced outwardly from the outer peripheral boundary.

7(currently amended). An improvement in an applicator implement having an applicator for applying a fluid material from a source to a surface, the improvement comprising:

a stem having a first end and a second end, and an outer peripheral surface extending along the stem between the first end and the second end, in a direction along an axis;

an applicator including a first portion secured to the stem adjacent the first end of the stem and a second portion projecting beyond the first end in a direction away from the second end, the first portion of the applicator being spaced inwardly from the outer peripheral surface toward the axis, and the second portion having an outer peripheral boundary;

a transverse area extending across the stem, adjacent the first end of the stem, between the outer peripheral surface and the outer peripheral boundary; and

a plurality of lumens extending through the stem from the first end to the second end, the lumens extending along the direction of the axis and spaced apart from one another in an array around the axis, each lumen being spaced from the axis and from the outer peripheral surface to lie between the axis and the outer peripheral surface, each lumen having an inlet adjacent the second end of the

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stem for receiving fluid material to be conducted from the source through the lumen, an outlet adjacent the first end of the stem for delivering the fluid material received at the inlet, and a transverse cross-sectional area, at least at the outlet, substantially smaller than the transverse area adjacent the first end of the stem, each outlet being located between the outer peripheral boundary of the second portion of the applicator and the outer peripheral surface and juxtaposed with the outer peripheral boundary of the second portion of the applicator for delivering the fluid material in a plurality of separate streams of relatively small cross-sectional area corresponding to the plurality of lumens, with the streams directed to lay down the delivered fluid material along the second portion of the applicator at the outer peripheral boundary of the second portion of the applicator;

the stem including a bore extending from the first end toward the second end and spaced inwardly from the array of lumens toward the axis, the first portion of the applicator being secured in the bore; and

~~The improvement of claim 3 wherein~~ the lumens each ~~include~~ including a length extending along the stem, and at least some of the lumens ~~communicate~~ communicating with the bore along at least a portion of the length of the lumens.

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8(original). The improvement of claim 7 wherein the at least some of the lumens communicate with the bore at the outlets of the at least some of the lumens.

9(original). The improvement of claim 1 including a source of fluid material attached to the stem at the second end of the stem.

10(original). The improvement of claim 9 wherein the source includes a container for containing a reservoir of the fluid material.

11(original). The improvement of claim 10 wherein the container includes a resiliently flexible wall for selective flexing to drive fluid material from the reservoir into the inlet of each lumen.

12(withdrawn). The improvement of claim 1 including a syringe integrated with the stem adjacent the second end of the stem for containing a reservoir of fluid material and driving selected amounts of the fluid material from the reservoir into the inlets of the lumens.

13(original). The improvement of claim 1 including a pump integrated with the stem adjacent the second end of the stem for

driving selected amounts of fluid material into the inlets of the lumens.

14(withdrawn). The improvement of claim 13 including a cap integrated with the stem adjacent the second end of the stem, the cap being adapted for coupling with a bottle containing a supply of fluid material such that fluid material selectively is drawn through the outlets of the lumens, through the lumens, and into the pump for subsequent selective driving by the pump into the inlets of the lumens and delivery through the outlets of the lumens.

15(withdrawn). The improvement of claim 14 wherein the pump comprises a dropper bulb for containing a reservoir of fluid material drawn from the supply in the bottle and driving selected amounts of the fluid material from the reservoir into the inlets of the lumens.

16(original). The improvement of claim 1 wherein the stem comprises a cylindrical shaft and the axis comprises a central axis of the shaft, the outer peripheral surface comprises a cylindrical surface, and the array of lumens comprises a cylindrical array extending around the central axis and spaced radially inwardly from the cylindrical surface and radially outwardly from the outer peripheral boundary of the second portion of the applicator.

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17(original). The improvement of claim 1 wherein the applicator implement comprises a brush, the applicator comprises bristles and the second portion comprises a bristle group projecting beyond the first end of the stem.

18(original). The improvement of claim 17 wherein the stem comprises a cylindrical shaft and the axis comprises a central axis of the shaft, the outer peripheral surface comprises a cylindrical surface, and the array of lumens comprises a cylindrical array extending around the central axis and spaced radially inwardly from the cylindrical surface and radially outwardly from the outer peripheral boundary of the second portion of the bristle group.

19(withdrawn). A method for delivering a fluid material to an applicator of an applicator implement for subsequent application to a surface, the applicator extending along an axis and having an outer peripheral boundary, the method comprising:

delivering the fluid material in a plurality of closely adjacent separate small streams juxtaposed with the outer peripheral boundary of the applicator, the streams being spaced apart from one another in an array around the axis ~~and~~ so as to surround the outer peripheral boundary of the applicator and be directed such that the fluid material is laid down in an array of closely adjacent separate small

streams along the applicator at the outer peripheral boundary of the applicator.

20(withdrawn). The method of claim 19 wherein the streams are directed generally parallel to the axis.

21(withdrawn). The method of claim 20 wherein at least some of the streams, upon delivery, are spaced radially away from the outer peripheral boundary of the applicator, closely adjacent the applicator.

22(withdrawn). The method of claim 20 wherein at least some of the streams, upon delivery, coincide with the outer peripheral boundary of the applicator.

23(withdrawn). A method for delivering a fluid material to bristles of an applicator brush for subsequent application to a surface, the bristles extending along an axis in a bristle group having an outer peripheral boundary, the method comprising:

delivering the fluid material in a plurality of closely adjacent separate small streams juxtaposed with the outer peripheral boundary of the bristle group, the streams being spaced apart from one another in an array around the axis and so as to surround the outer peripheral boundary of the bristle group and be directed such that

the fluid material is laid down in an array of closely adjacent separate small streams along the bristles at the outer peripheral boundary of the bristle group.

24 (withdrawn). The method of claim 23 wherein the streams are directed generally parallel to the axis.

25 (withdrawn). The method of claim 24 wherein at least some of the streams, upon delivery, are spaced radially away from the outer peripheral boundary of the bristle group, closely adjacent the bristle group.

26 (withdrawn). The method of claim 24 wherein at least some of the streams, upon delivery, coincide with the outer peripheral boundary of the bristle group.

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a transverse area extending across the stem, adjacent the first end of the stem, between the outer peripheral surface and the outer peripheral boundary; and

a plurality of lumens extending through the stem from the first end to the second end, the lumens extending along the direction of the axis and spaced apart from one another in an array around the axis, each lumen being spaced from the axis and from the outer peripheral surface to lie between the axis and the outer peripheral surface, each lumen having an inlet adjacent the second end of the